

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU EEC PO

SUBJ: OAU THINKING ON EEC ROLE IN PORTUGUESE DECOLONIALISM

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3237

SUMMARY: PORTUGAL, ALREADY ON ROAD TOWARD ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION IN EUROPE, IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE ITS AFRICAN
POLICIES AS QUID PRO QUO FOR OFFERS OF CLOSER INTEGRATION
IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, ENCOURAGEMENT OF CLOSER PORTUGUESE
TIES TO EUROPE, WITHOUT POLITICAL STRINGS, WOULD BE
BEST WAY IN LONG RUN TO FOSTER CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH
GOP WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO DISENGAGE FROM AFRICA. END
SUMMARY.

1. THOSE WHO BELIEVE OFFERS OF FULLER ECONOMIC INTE-
GRATION WITH EUROPE WILL ENTICE PORTUGAL TO CHANGE ITS
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AFRICAN POLICIES ARE ENGAGED IN WISHFUL THINKING.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY MADE SIGNIFICANT STEPS
TOWARD INTEGRATING PORTUGAL ECONOMICALLY WITHOUT DEMANDING
A POLITICAL "QUID". GREATER INTEGRATION-WITH POLITICAL
STRINGS-IS UNLIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENTLY APPEALING TO PORTUGAL.

2. PORTUGAL'S MAIN ECONOMIC OBJECTIVE IN EUROPE
IS TO FOSTER EXPORTS AND PROTECT DOMESTIC INDUSTRY
AGAINST IMPORTS. FOR THE TIME BEING THIS DUAL OBJECTIVE
IS BEING LARGELY ACHIEVED THROUGH PORTUGAL'S INDUSTRIAL
FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT WITH THE ENLARGED EEC AND
ITS MEMBERSHIP IN "MINI-EFTA". IT IS TRUE THAT
PORTUGAL WOULD LIKE FREER ACCESS TO EUROPEAN MARKETS
FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (E.G., TABLE WINES)
AND A GREATER SAY IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC POLICY
DECISIONS, BUT THIS CONCERN IS NOT SO INTENSE THAT
THE GOP WOULD BE WILLING TO BARGAIN ITS AFRICAN
POLICIES.

3. AS MATTERS STAND TODAY A EUROPEAN THREAT TO ANNUL
AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN FORCE WOULD PROBABLY CARRY
MORE WEIGHT THAN AN OFFER OF MORE INTEGRATION.
IN ANY EVENT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER APPROACH
WOULD PRODUCE A CHANGE IN AFRICAN POLICY. THEY WOULD
ONLY GET PORTUGUESE RIGHTISTS' BACKS UP, AND UNDERMINE
THOSE HERE WHO LOOK TO A FUTURE MORE CLOSELY
TIED TO EUROPE AND WHO ARE QUIETLY PURSUING THAT
OBJECTIVE. WE AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES WOULD THEREFORE
BE BETTER ADVISED TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PORTUGUESE
ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT WITH EUROPE, BUT WITHOUT SEEKING
AN AFRICAN "QUID". WHILE SUCH A POLICY WILL NOT HELP
MUCH IN BRINGING EARLY CHANGES IN PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN
POSITION, IT WILL IN THE LONG RUN HELP CREATE THE
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE GOP WOULD FIND IT
EASIER TO DISENGAGE FROM ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES.
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